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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE VISIT TO KAISERSWERTH

OF all the delightful memories of the Cologne Congress, one of the most precious will be that of the excursion to Kaiserswerth, the cradle of the modern Deaconess movement. Few of the stranger nurses, or even of the Germans, had ever been there, and the historical charm and actual wonder of the place made an indelible impression.

None of the Deaconess Motherhouses, as such, took part in the proceedings of the Congress;—they could hardly do so, because we, modern “worldly Sisters,” proclaim an individual freedom which is directly opposed to their foundation principle of community life; but the invitation to visit Kaiserswerth and our reception there could not have been kinder or more hospitable had we been closely bound to them all by solemn ceremonial.

The newer parts of the Kaiserswerth domain present a splendid group of related institutions, which our space would be all too scant to do justice to. Suffice it to say that there are two-and-twenty, including the Motherhouse and the original buildings, and they lie beautifully embedded in green gardens, over a vast tract. Kaiserswerth has now, in all, over 1400 Sisters, and 50 branches, or “Daughterhouses,” of which 15 are in foreign countries. To the visiting nurses a special interest was, of course, attached to the oldest parts of the domain, and this was especially true of the Americans, who care little for the new, but love the old, when they go abroad. The quaint lines of the original houses, their lovely old gardens, and the sweet seclusion of their inner courts, fascinated all. At the outset of the visit we went to the graveyard, when the English nurses laid a wreath of flowers on the tomb of Friederike Fliedner, the first House Mother and the foundress of modern training. Pastor Fliedner’s second wife is also laid there, and we saw the tomb of the first Deaconess, Gertrude Reichardt. The headstones of the Sisters are uniform, as in a soldiers’ cemetery. The small room where Florence Nightingale lived during her stay there in training was the object of eager interest, but not all the visitors (there were 500 of us) succeeded in penetrating into it. Outwardly, its windows were



MISS NIGHTINGALE'S ROOMS AT KAISERSWERTH,
DECORATED FOR I. C. N.

decorated with flowers and the English colors. Those of us who climbed up and into it saw a tiny, but dear little corner room, plain as possible, but with two windows looking on lovely gardens, and with window boxes. Several of the visitors whispered to each other that it should have a tablet recording the date of Miss Nightingale's occupancy. One of the Deaconesses, Sister Julie Borges, had some delightful memories of Miss Nightingale to relate to us, as she had gone to see her in London some years ago, and had given her all the latest news of the Motherhouse and its works.

We had coffee and cake and singing and eloquent words at the end of our visit, and left, full to overflowing with the impressions of the day. Kaiserswerth takes good care of its Sisters, and they have the sweetest, most sunny, care-free faces one could see. They are not overburdened with heavy work, for which an ample number of domestics are kept, but are able to concentrate on their own specialties, and to do justice to the higher, spiritual demands of their professional tasks, whether nursing, or teaching, or administration. It is a great pity that this rare institution is heavily loaded with debt, and we can imagine no more useful purpose for wealthy church people to give money to than the admirable work of Kaiserswerth.

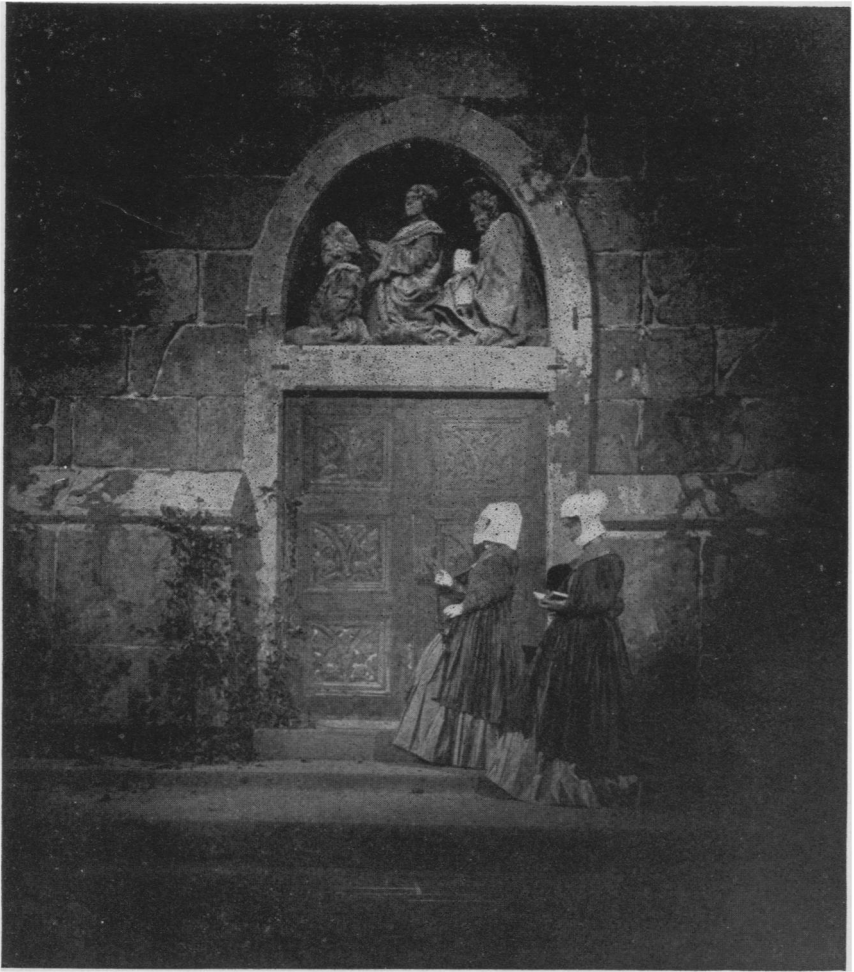
ITEMS

WE are delighted to read in the August *Australasian Nurses' Journal* that affiliation with the International Council of Nurses is being considered, and it is gratifying to see that two women who came to the Buffalo Congress in 1901 are foremost in urging the step—Miss Susan B. McGahey and Miss Isla Blomfield. Both are warmly remembered by the international group, and Miss McGahey was International President for one period. She has indeed used her influence steadily for affiliation, and Miss Blomfield made a stirring speech on the question, closing with the resolution: "That it is desirable that the A. T. N. A. should affiliate with the I. C. N." We trust this resolution will be finally carried by the 3000 members or more.

La Garde-Malade Hospitalière, organ of the training schools in France, founded upon the "Nightingale system," has in its July issue an important discussion of the latest governmental action in the process of laicising the hospitals. Briefly, the enforcement was anticipated of a law which would make it practically all but impossible for physicians and surgeons owning or controlling private hospitals to employ the



LIVING PICTURES AT COLOGNE CONGRESS. ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY.
COPIED FROM A WOOD CARVING.



LIVING PICTURES AT COLOGNE CONGRESS. BEGUINAGE OF THE 15TH CENTURY
IN COLOGNE. THE GATEWAY AND FIGURES ABOVE
REPRESENT A STONE CARVING.

religious Sisters, members of Catholic orders, who are now numerous engaged to take charge of the nursing and management in these institutions, where paying patients are received. The prospect of such wholesale enforcement filled medical heads of private hospitals with dismay, naturally, for France has not nearly enough trained secular nurses to take the Sisters' places, and hasty, sweeping laicisation in public hospitals has often been a complete failure, because organized by hospital directors without the slightest knowledge of nursing or its principles. It is not only that a raw and untrained set of women comes forward when thus summoned by a male administration, but also, often, a positively immoral set, and medical men knowing how the reputation of their private hospitals will suffer under the change, were filling the medical papers with protests, and asking where they were to get superior women of character and ability.

The G. M. H. points out the irony of the fact that the schools now existing on the Nightingale model have trouble in persuading medical men to accept those conditions of organization and of training which *alone* can give the results they are clamoring for. It adds: "In spite of the fact that our country has numerous schools for nurses, the number of *training school principals* who are competent, who are responsible for the selection of probationers, and who are endowed with the necessary authority for refusing those not fitted for the calling, can be counted on one hand. Would the prestige of the religious Sister be what it is to-day if the Mother Superiors had not always had this power in the selection of novices?" As a matter of fact (it goes on to say), in spite of the present urgent demand for a nursing personnel of high character, the task of the Directress, in France, is an ungrateful one. She finds, often, as little sympathy, receives as little support, from the medical men as from the administration, instead of being acknowledged by both (as she should be) as a valued and indispensable co-worker, whose skilled services assure for the school not only a careful training to its pupils, but also a careful selection of suitable women—an impossibility if there is no Directress, or if she is only a figure-head.

Moreover, the practical ward training is not understood except by the trained principal, and it is common for medical men to criticise the rotation in service for nurses, though they know it to be necessary for students.

Perhaps this experience will be salutary for the French physicians, and we cannot feel altogether sorry that they are having it. Dr. Lande, who was so exceptional in his wisdom about nursing, knew that it was

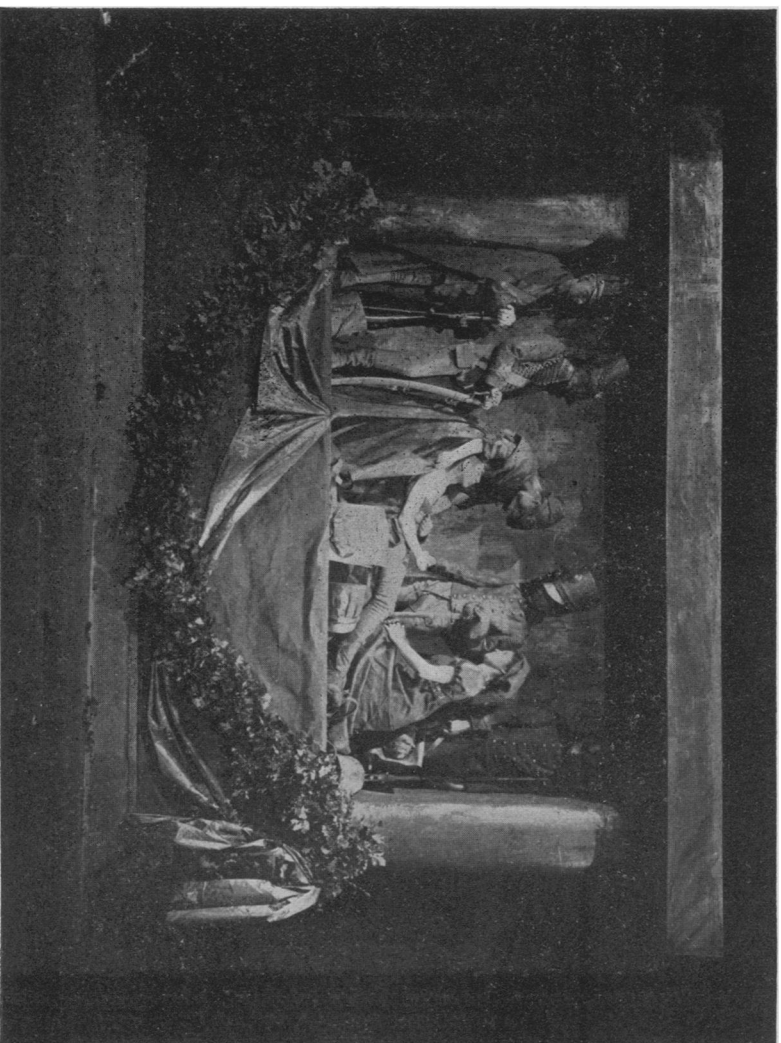
folly to drive the nuns out of hospital work without having trained and morally-desirable substitutes,—knew, too, that training is a long, slow work. This question was to have come up at the very meeting of the General Medical Association where his death occurred.

A PROPOSAL has been made by Dr. Pabst, in New Zealand, that the university should confer a degree for nursing, and so recognize it as a profession. Both *Kai Tiaki* and the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* comment with some reserve on this suggestion, as involving the possibility of minimizing the primary importance of the practical work of actually caring for the patient. We believe these fears are groundless, and that there should be as full opportunity for the nurse who has teaching or administrative or social gifts to perfect herself in those branches as there now is for her to have the perfect practical training in hospital wards. An excellent old matron asks, "Who will do the work of nursing when nurses go to the university?" But there will only be a comparatively small number who will go to the university, and this small group needs that very opening, and ought to have it. The majority of nurses will always keep on caring for the patients just as they do now, and perhaps even better.

The university also proposes a degree of Bachelor of Science in Home Science, which it is thought will appeal to nurses as an accessory to their training in hospital.

THE State of Queensland, Australia, now has state registration of nurses. A board of five to administer the act has three medical men and two nurses. The two latter are in the future to be elected by registered nurses.

A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED commission in Sweden is studying the conditions and needs of the nursing profession. Two nurses are on this body, one of them being Sister Emmy Lindhagen, president of the national association. Sister Magda Meyerson is the commission's secretary. The two nurses came to Cologne on their way back from Austria and southern Germany, where they had been investigating nursing and hospital conditions. They will also give their findings as to state registration acts, and they have sent for a file of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* to use in their researches.



LIVING PICTURES AT COLOGNE CONGRESS. THE WAR OF FREEDOM:
REPRESENTS A CARVING IN BRONZE.



LIVING PICTURES AT COLOGNE CONGRESS. THE TRIUMPH OF HYGEIA. HYGEIA AS A MARBLE FIGURE, NURSES IN HISTORICAL AND MODERN COSTUMES BRINGING GARLANDS TO HER.